

In the Claims:

1. (currently amended) Kitchen utensil with a handle and a tool for handling food products, wherein the handle has a substantially V-shaped or U-shaped cross section extending through ends and being perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of the utensil.

2. (previously presented) Kitchen utensil according to claim 1, wherein the tool is at least one tool selected from the group consisting of a tong, a spatula, a fork, a hook, and a brush.

3. (previously presented) Kitchen utensil according to claim 1, wherein the tool is at least one tool selected from the group consisting of a tong, a spatula, a fork, and a hook.

4. (previously presented) Kitchen utensil according to claim 12, wherein the kitchen utensil is one single piece of plate-like material.

5. (previously presented) Kitchen utensil according to claim 12, wherein the material is a polymer or stainless steel material.

6. (previously presented) Kitchen utensil according to claim 1, wherein at least part of a surface of said utensil is covered by a coating.

7. (original) Kitchen utensil according to claim 6, wherein said coating has a rubber-like appearance.

8. (original) Kitchen utensil according to claim 6, wherein said coating is heat resistant.

9. (previously presented) A kitchen utensil kit comprising at least two kitchen utensils according to claim 1 arranged with respective handles of the two kitchen utensils in stacking conditions to form a compact unity of a kitchen utensil set.

10. (original) Use of a kitchen utensil according to claim 1 for barbecue.

11. (previously presented) The kitchen utensil of claim 1, wherein the utensil is a barbecue tool.

12. (previously presented) The kitchen utensil of claim 1, wherein the handle and the tool are made of same material.

13. (new) Food preparation kitchen utensil apparatus comprising elongated, tapered, plate-like handles having wide outer ends and narrow inner ends and having v-shaped or u-shaped cross sections extending with convex and concave sides for centering thumbs of users hands in the concave sides and wrapping fingers of the hands around the convex sides for controlling the apparatus between the thumbs and the fingers, food preparation tools connected to the narrow inner ends of the handles and wherein the handles and the food preparation tools are formed of stainless steel sheet.

14. (new) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the tools are tongs and wherein the handles are resiliently joined at the wide outer ends and wherein the handles diverge outward from the joint and are movable together by inward pressure of the thumbs and the fingers.

15. (new) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the tools are spatulas mounted on the narrow inner ends of the handles.

16. (new) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the tools are forks and wherein the v-shapes or u-shapes extend into forks.

17. (new) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the forks have tangs extending perpendicularly from the forks in relation to the handles.

18. (new) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the tools comprise spatulas, brush holders and forks connected to the handles, and wherein the handles are aligned and relatively solid when combined for forming an elongated compartment.

19. (new) A food preparation kitchen utensil apparatus comprising an elongated stainless steel plate handle bent longitudinally centrally in a u-shape or v-shape, and having a wide outer end and a narrow inner end, and tapering uniformly inwardly from the wide outer end to the narrow inner end, the u-shape or v-shape extending through the outer and inner ends, a mounting hole centered near the wide open end, whereby the u-shape or v-shape assists aligning the hole with a hanger, a food preparation kitchen utensil tool integrally formed on the narrow inner end, whereby the u-shape or v-shape assists holding the handle and directing and supporting the tool and food on the tool against twisting by centering a thumb of a user's hand within the u-shape or v-shape and wrapping fingers around the handle opposite the centered thumb, which is prevented from laterally slipping by the u-shape or v-shape.

20. (new) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the handle comprises multiple similar handles and wherein the tool comprises multiple distinct tools, wherein the tools comprise spatulas, brush holders and forks connected to the handles, and wherein the handles are aligned and relatively solid when combined for forming an elongated compartment.